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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a publically routable Internet Protocol (IP) address to a host computer located on a private network, comprising:

assigning a first publically routable IP address to a gateway coupled to; both a public and a private network, said gateway comprising a NAT therein;

allocating a second publically routable IP address to a host computer in said private network, where said host computer is coupled to said gateway; and

transmitting said second publically routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can be configured with said second publically routable IP address to enable it to receive unsolicited packets from said public network through said gateway by bypassing the NAT.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning, receiving said first publically routable IP address and said second publically routable IP address from an Internet Service Provider (ISP) that forms part of said public network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning,

allotting a first privately routable IP address to said gateway;

assigning a second privately routable IP address to said host computer; and

transmitting said second privately routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can communicate with said gateway on said private network.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning, receiving an instruction to assign said second publically routable IP address to said host computer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to said assigning, inquiring whether said host computer would like a publically routable IP address.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said inquiring comprises transmitting a Web page to said host computer, where said Web page queries a user of said host computer whether said user would like a publically routable IP address to be assigned to said host computer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning further comprises assigning said first publically routable IP address to a Network Address Translation (NAT) service on said gateway.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a publically routable Internet Protocol (IP) address to a host computer located on a private network, comprising:

receiving a first publically routable IP address and a second publically routable IP address from an Internet Service Provider (ISP);

allotting a first privately routable IP address to a gateway coupled to both a public network and a private network;

assigning a second privately routable IP address to a host computer in a private network; and

transmitting said second privately routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can be configured to communicate with said gateway on said private network;

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receiving an instruction to assign said second publically routable IP address to said host computer;

assigning said first publically routable IP address to a Network Address Translation (NAT) service on said gateway;

allocating said second publically routable IP address to said host computer; and

transmitting said second publically routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can be configured to enable it to receive unsolicited packets from said public network through said gateway by bypassing the NAT.

9. (Currently Amended) A gateway for providing a publically routable Internet Protocol (IP) address to a host computer located on a private network, comprising:

a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

communications circuitry; and

a memory, comprising:

a Network Address Translation (NAT) service;

an operating system;

communication procedures for communicating with a public and a private network;

a control program containing:

instructions for assigning a first publically routable IP address to a gateway coupled to both said public and said private networks;

instructions for allocating a second publically routable IP address to a host computer in said private network; and

instructions for transmitting said second publically routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can be configured with said second publically routable IP address to enable it to

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receive unsolicited packets from said public network through said gateway bypassing the NAT service.

10. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises a publically routable IP block that contains said first and second publically routable IP addresses.

11. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises a privately routable IP block containing at least one privately routable IP address.

12. (Cancel)

13. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

14. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises a Web Client and server, and at least one Web page for querying said host computer whether said host computer would like a publically routable IP address.

15. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises instructions for receiving said first publically routable IP address and said second publically routable IP address from an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

16. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises: instructions for allotting a first privately routable IP address to said gateway; instructions for assigning a second privately routable IP address to said host computer; and

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instructions for transmitting said second privately routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can be configured to communicate with said gateway on said private network.

17. (Original) The gateway of claim 9, wherein said memory further comprises receiving an instruction to assign said second publically routable IP address to said host computer.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing a publically routable Internet Protocol (IP) address to a host computer located on a private network, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage and a computer program stored therein, the computer program comprising:

instructions for assigning a first publically routable IP address to a gateway coupled to both said public and said private networks;

instructions for allocating a second publically routable IP address to a host computer in said private network; and

instructions for transmitting said second publically routable IP address to said host computer, such that said host computer can be configured with said second publically routable IP address to enable it to receive unsolicited packets from said public network through said gateway by bypassing a Network Address Translation service within the gateway.